



For Immediate Release – April 13, 2010

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## From the Top Announces Margaret Stewart Lindsay Arts Leadership Awards

(Boston)...**From the Top**, the preeminent showcase for young musicians, is pleased to announce the first recipients of the **Margaret Stewart Lindsay Arts Leadership Award**, part of a new program that encourages high school and collegiate musicians to give back to their communities. Named for the late Margaret Stewart Lindsay, the program provides training and support to young musicians to build leadership skills and encourage civic engagement.

Award recipients were invited to apply for funding for an existing or proposed music-based community project in the greater-Boston area. The first awardees share a grant pool of \$2500 and include:

- From the Top alumnus **Griffin Gaffney**, a first year student at Harvard, will work with classmate Noni Carter to create an after-school program in Boston in the fall of 2010 that promotes literacy and exposure to the arts.
- **Jacob Shack**, a senior at **Phillips Academy in Andover**, on behalf of the **Andover Lawrence String Program**. The grant will support this Phillips Academy program, which brings children from the Leonard School and the Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund Charter School to the Andover campus for weekly music lessons with student volunteers.
- **Brian Kaufman and Michael Reichman**, Master's candidates at New England Conservatory who lead **Musical Diplomacy**, a community project that inspires conversation about social issues through music. The award will support their May 14 *Concert and Discussion on Race and Culture in the Age of Obama* and the participation of Emmy-nominated composer Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR).

In addition to the three grant recipients, an **Honorable Mention** was awarded to **Noah Umberto Kelly**, a fourth grade student at Jackson Middle School in Newton, for his efforts to provide concerts for the residents at the Sophia Snow House retirement community.

From the Top will provide mentoring to the Margaret Stewart Lindsay Arts Leadership Award recipients as they implement their projects.

### About From the Top's Margaret Stewart Lindsay Arts Leadership Program

At the heart of From the Top's mission is the belief that young people can make an important contribution to the world by sharing who they are and what they love to do. This idea is passed on to young musicians through From the Top's Arts Leadership program, which is dedicated to the memory of Margaret Stewart Lindsay.

Margaret Stewart Lindsay inspired many by overcoming her personal challenges and for her generous compassion. She turned her life experience into a desire to help others. She had a passion for the arts, and she believed in educational opportunity for all. Margaret passed away at the age of 62, but her legacy lives on through the Margaret Stewart Lindsay Arts Leadership Program, which promotes her values and her spirit by providing training and support to young musicians who want to follow her lead.

### **About From the Top**

Now celebrating its tenth anniversary, From the Top is best known for its award winning PBS and NPR programs celebrating the music and stories of the nation's best young classical musicians. In the past ten years, the Boston-based non-profit has expanded from a weekly public radio series to include an Emmy-Award winning PBS television series, a national tour, online media, and educational programming ranging from community outreach to music textbooks published by Macmillan/McGraw Hill. From the Top's Margaret Stewart Lindsay Arts Leadership program empowers young musicians to serve as role models and give back to their communities. Through a partnership with the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, From the Top awards more than \$200,000 in scholarships to high achieving musicians with limited financial means each year. This program has invested more than \$1.2 million in support of pre-college students since 2005.

Learn more at [www.fromthetop.org](http://www.fromthetop.org).